

## DIGITAL TV WATCHES YOU WATCHING TV

The launch of BSkyB digital satellite television will give Rupert Murdoch's company unprecedented power to access subscribers' televisions and record their viewing habits.

The technology is in place for Sky to find out whether vicars are watching naughty sex movies, if old ladies are obsessed by crime and violence, or whether the man next door is more interested in soap operas or gardening programs.

It is all possible because digital satellite TV will be interactive. The little black box that will be positioned on top of your television set will have a two-way communications channel. Digital television engineers say that the black box will store information on viewers' program preferences, which Sky can then upload at its convenience.

The information is commercial gold-dust. Under data protection laws, viewers would have to be told that their names were being passed on—but not necessarily that the information was being gathered in the first place.

The BSkyB set-top boxes, which the company says will be on sale from 1 October, will not include the software to monitor viewers' program choices. In



practice, though, BSkyB could at any time beam new software into set-top boxes directly from its satellite.

Viewers who fear they're being 'watched' by their television should note that there is a way of switching off Mr Murdoch. With each interactive set-top box, Sky wants to install a phone line beside the TV set. This connection allows the two-way conversation between the box and Sky's headquarters. Viewers could unplug it and still receive all of Sky's digital channels, without being interactive.

(Source: Jane Robins, *The Independent*, UK, 21 August 1998)

## HUMANS AND DOLPHINS HAVE SIMILAR GENETICS

For years, marine biologists have told us that dolphins and humans share many traits including intelligence and friendliness.

"The extent of the genetic similarity came as a real surprise to us," said David Busbee of Texas A&M University, who published his results in *Cytogenetics and Cell Genetics*.

Researchers at Texas A&M University applied 'paints', or fluorescently labelled human chromosomes, to dolphin chromosomes and found that 13 of 22 dolphin chromosomes are exactly the same as human chromosomes. Of the remaining nine dolphin chromosomes, many were found to be combinations or rearrangements of their human counterparts. The researchers also identified three dolphin genes that are similar to human genes.

"Dolphins are marine mammals that swim in the ocean, and it was astonishing to learn that we have more in common with the dolphin than with land mammals," commented Horst Hameister, Professor of Medical Genetics at the University of Ulm in Germany.

(Source: Seema Kumar, *Discovery Channel Online News*, [www.discovery.com](http://www.discovery.com))

## ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS KILL 100,000+ AMERICANS

According to a report published in a recent *Journal of the American Medical Association*, more than 100,000 Americans are killed every year by prescription and over-the-counter medicines, and a further 2.1 million are seriously injured. The report found that such reactions (which do not include prescribing errors or drug abuse) rank at least sixth among causes of death in the United States—behind heart disease, cancer, lung disease, strokes and accidents.

Researchers at the University of Toronto estimated that an average of 106,000 deaths occur annually at US hospitals due to bad reactions to drugs.

"Serious adverse drug reactions are frequent...more so than generally recognised," the researchers noted.

(Source: CNN via Internet website, [http://cnn.com/HEALTH/9804/14/drug\\_reaction/index.html](http://cnn.com/HEALTH/9804/14/drug_reaction/index.html))



## TELEVISION NEWS TERRIFIES AMERICAN CHILDREN

American children grow up in a culture where violence is pervasive in movies, television and even song lyrics. But researchers reported on Monday 17 August that many children trace their fears about life to one key source: TV news.

"What we call 'news' has become so sensational," said Joanne Cantor, a psychologist from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "It's all the news that's fit to terrify."

Cantor and Barbara Wilson of the University of California, Santa Barbara, told a meeting of the American Psychological Association in San Francisco that fresh research indicated that television news, particularly local news programs, can lead to elevated fears among children.

Pointing to the explosive growth of television news outlets and a trend towards more graphic pictures of violence and mayhem, the two psychologists said television news should be closely monitored by parents and teachers for its 'fright factor' for young children.

"As children begin to understand the differences between fantasy and reality, the news becomes more frightening," Cantor noted. "These fright reactions can be intense and debilitating."

Much of the fright revolves around stories that children feel are close to their lives.

While younger children are often terrified by pictures of natural disasters, wars and famine, older children focus their fears on stories of crime and violence—particularly when they are directed at children.

"Children need to have some reasonable amount of information about the dangers that are important to them," Wilson said. "But what they are getting is exaggerated fears of things that are not necessarily the dangers they are going to encounter."

In one recent study conducted among primary school children in Santa Barbara, Wilson found that 51 per cent could describe in detail a recent television news story that had frightened them—ranging from gang violence to a natural disaster.

These fears are amplified by the fact that children, much more than adults, are likely to believe what they see on the television news.

In Wilson's study, 94 per cent of the children said they believed television news

was truthful all or most of the time.

"There is a very high perceived reality for TV news among kids," Wilson said. (Source: Andrew Quinn, Reuters, 18 August 1998)

## McLIBEL CASE RETURNS TO COURT ON APPEAL

The long-running defamation case involving McDonald's and two activists who handed out pamphlets criticising the burger behemoth returned to a British court, the week of 27 July.

The "McLibel Two", Dave Morris and Helen Steel, are appealing the 1997 judge's ruling which maintained that the two had libelled McDonald's with their pamphlets. Despite the setback for the two, the judge slammed McDonald's on many counts, agreeing with Morris and Steel that the corporation does pay low wages and exploit children through its advertising, and is "culpably responsible" for animal cruelty.

Morris and Steel are maintaining in their appeal that these points from their pamphlet were so damning that they could not have harmed McDonald's reputation with other statements about the company's environmentally unsound exploitation of its Third World suppliers, its anti-union practices in Britain and the general unhealthiness of its high-fat fare.

In court on Monday, Morris and Steel, who are representing themselves as they can't afford attorneys, said they were unable to pay £20,000 (US\$33,000) to make three sets of the three-volume, 20,000-page trial transcript, one for each appellate judge. The judges decided that they would try to obtain a used copy of the transcript from

the trial judge, a spare copy from McDonald's, and then have the defendants pay a much lower sum—around £1,000 (US\$1,650)—for a third copy on computer disc.

Concerned about the tens of thousands of pages of paperwork that will fill the chambers when arguments in the longest trial in British history begin again in January 1999, the judge called for "the largest court in the building".

To learn more about the McLibel case, visit the McSpotlight website at <www.mcspotlight.org>.

(Source: Dirk Beveridge, "British 'McLibel' Case Drags On", Associated Press, 27 July 1998)

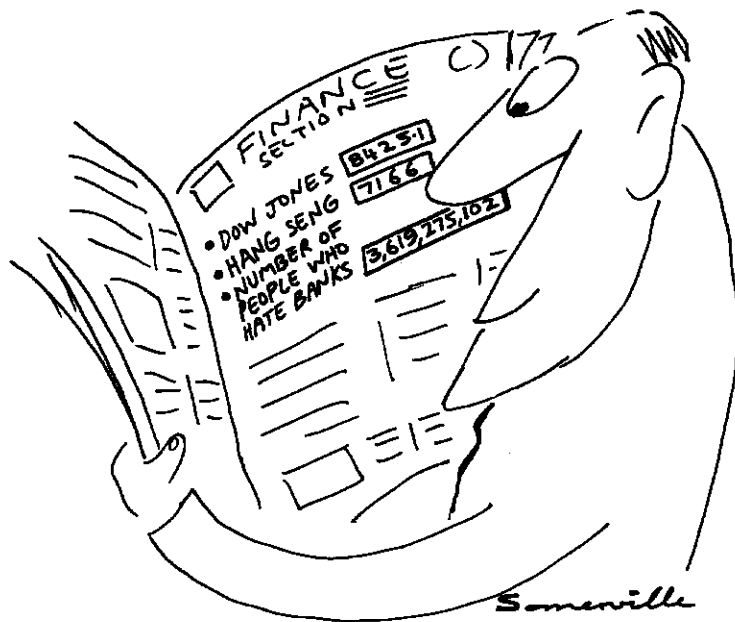
## CONSPIRACY THEORY POLL

According to the results of a poll conducted by the Scripps Howard News Service and Ohio University last year: "Americans increasingly suspect the worst about their government. They think Uncle Sam may be a mass murderer, or a drug dealer, or a presidential assassin, or even a collaborator with the 'aliens'."

Results of the poll are summarised here:

1) Fifty-one per cent believe it is either very likely or somewhat likely that federal officials were "directly responsible" for President Kennedy's assassination.

2) More than one-third suspect that the US Navy, either by accident or on purpose, shot down TWA Flight 800.



3) A majority believe it is possible that the CIA "intentionally permitted Central American drug dealers to sell cocaine to inner-city black children".

4) Sixty per cent believe that the government is withholding information about Agent Orange and other military abuses in the Vietnam and Gulf wars.

5) Nearly one-half suspect that FBI agents deliberately set the fires that killed 81 Branch Davidians near Waco, Texas, in 1993.

6) After the release of the US Air Force reports stating that the "alien bodies" seen at Roswell in 1947 were actually test dummies, more people believed the government is covering up information and technology from "extraterrestrials" than before the Air Force reports.

"This is not good," commented Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating. "When we believe that our free institutions can commonly be corrupted to dark and evil purposes, it is a statement of a feeling of helplessness... We are in for some turbulent years ahead as a nation."

Curtis Gans, the Executive Director for the Washington Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, had this to say about the recent poll:

"Paranoia is killing this country. It is essentially reducing cohesion in our society and is creating fear in the minds of our citizenry."

The 'experts' agree on one thing. It would be extremely difficult, if not impos-

sible, to reverse the perception of a good portion of the public of a corrupt, secretive and conspiratorial US Government.

(Source: Website, [www.sightings.com](http://www.sightings.com))

## NEW CONTROLS ON USE OF DENTAL AMALGAM

The Swedish Government has decided to withdraw compensation for the placement of mercury amalgam fillings, effective 1 January 1999. The aim is to ban completely the use of dental amalgam within two years.

And in Australia, contrary to the claims made by the Australian Dental Association that amalgam is safe, amalgam manufacturers themselves are now acknowledging the intrinsic dangers of this material.

For example, Caulk Company, the manufacturer of Dispersalloy, published the latest Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and Directions For Use (DFU) which includes contraindications to the use of dental amalgam.

This places dentists in an interesting legal position. Dentists are obliged to be familiar with information published in MSDSs for the products they use. If a patient suffers ill-effects from the product being used in a way which is contrary to the manufacturer's directions, then the dentist may be liable for the consequences.

(Source: *Australasian Society of Oral Medicine and Toxicology*, 13 March 1998; PO Box A860, Sydney South, NSW 2000, Australia, telephone +61 (0)2 9867 1111)

## GOOD-MOOD FOOD IS NO LAUGHING MATTER

Mind control drugs as medicine in food? A scheme to insert chemicals into food to make people slimmer is being funded and investigated by British Government-backed scientists. They want to change the structure of food by introducing chemicals such as tryptophan to alter people's moods, make them happier, and therefore, in theory, make them eat less.

The 'happy food' study is being funded by the Medical Research Council (which receives £300 million in state cash per year) and Unilever (producer of Wall's Ice Cream, Birds Eye and Flora products).

Critics such as Professor Tim Land, a leading authority on diet, believe the consequences could be much more sinister and far-reaching, and warn of an Orwellian nightmare. "This could be a slippery slope," said Prof. Land. "Twenty or 30 years from now, states or companies could be using this technique to exercise mass psychological control—and people will be asking why they were not told in time."

(Source: *The Mail, UK*, 10 July 1998)

## MICROWAVES DISRUPT HUMAN LIGHT-EMITTING CAPACITY

Research by physicist Dr Gerard Hyland (University of Warwick, UK), into the light emitted naturally by humans, raises new concerns and possibilities as to the effect of microwave radiation—generated by mobile phones, radar or microwave ovens—on the human body.

Dr Hyland has recently presented research findings that biological systems, including the human body, generate and emit light—an extremely low intensity radiation in the form of microscopic packets of light energy, or photons.

These photon emissions are not random but display coherence similar to that of the much more intense light generated by a laser. Dr Hyland believes that the origin of this coherence is the body's own metabolism which generates its own coherent electromagnetic field. These very weak emissions of light can be viewed as an outward sign of an orderly, functioning metabolism.

This research raises serious questions about the effect of external sources of microwave radiation on living tissue and its self-generated electromagnetic patterns.

(Source: *Blazing Tattles newsletter*, vol. 7, no. 8, August 1998)



**COINCIDENCE, CONSPIRACY, OR CARELESSNESS?**

*This is a partial list of those who had (or may have had) incriminating evidence on US President Bill Clinton's alleged criminal activities, but died in suspicious circumstances. (Space constraints prevent our giving details on the mysterious deaths of Vince Foster and Ron Brown.)*

**Gandy Baugh**—Died May 1994. Attorney for close Clinton friend Dan Lassiter, who allegedly committed suicide by jumping out of a multi-storey-building window. Lassiter was later indicted and convicted on cocaine charges, but then pardoned by Clinton.

**James Bunch**—Died in 1993 from a gunshot suicide. Was discovered to have a "black book" of names of influential people in Texas and Arkansas who visited certain prostitutes. A good friend of Bill Clinton.

**Danny Casolaro**—Died August 1991. Investigative reporter researching Mena Airport and Arkansas Development Finance Authority. His wrists were slit in an apparent suicide in the middle of his investigation. Had previously told his family his life was in danger and that he was not suicidal.

**Susanne Coleman**—Had an affair with Clinton when he was Arkansas Attorney General. Died of a gunshot wound to back of the head; ruled a suicide. Was pregnant at the time, allegedly to Bill Clinton.

**Kathy Ferguson**—Died June 1994. Ex-wife of Arkansas Trooper Danny Ferguson, found dead in her living room with a gunshot wound to the head. Death ruled a suicide, but she had several suitcases packed as if going somewhere. Danny Ferguson was a co-defendant with Bill Clinton in the Paula Jones lawsuit. Kathy Ferguson was a corroborating witness for Paula Jones.

**Hershell Friday**—Died 1 March 1994. Attorney; Clinton fundraiser. Died when his plane exploded; cause never determined.

**Paula Grober**—Died 9 December 1992. Clinton's speech interpreter for the deaf from 1978 until her death. Killed in a one-car accident; no known witnesses.

**Stanley Huggins**—Died from "suicide". Had been investigating Madison Guarantee, but his 300-page report was never released.

**Kevin Ives and Don Henry**—Died 23 August 1987. Initial report of deaths said the two teenagers had fallen asleep on rail tracks in Arkansas; local sheriff then called it a "double suicide". Later report said they had been slain before being placed on the tracks. Allegedly had stumbled upon the Mena Airport drug operation.

*The following seven had information on the Ives-Henry case but died before they could give testimony:*

**Keith Coney**—Died July 1988 when his motorcycle slammed into back of a truck.  
**Keith McMaskle**—Died November 1988, stabbed 113 times.  
**Gregory Collins**—Died January 1989 from a gunshot wound.  
**Jeff Rhodes**—Died April 1989. Found shot, mutilated and burned in a trash dump.  
**James Milan**—Died 1989, soon after Rhodes. Found decapitated. Coroner ruled death due to "natural causes".  
**Jordan Kettleson**—Died June 1990. Shot to death in front seat of his pickup truck.  
**Richard Winters**—Died July 1989 in a robbery setup. A suspect in the Ives-Henry deaths.

**Johnny Lawhorn, Jr**—Mechanic who found a check made out to Clinton in the trunk of a car left in his repair shop. Died when his car hit a utility pole.

**Florence Martin**—Died 1994. An accountant, subcontracting to the CIA, found in Mabell, Texas, with three gunshot wounds to the head. Martin had documents, account numbers and paperwork related to the Barry Seal Mena Airport drug-smuggling case.

**James McDougal**—Died 8 March 1998. Former Whitewater partner of the Clintons. Died in solitary confinement less than 24 hours before due in front of a grand jury.

**Mary Mahoney**—Died July 1997. A former White House intern about to go public with her story of sexual harassment in the White House. Shot five times by gunmen at the Starbucks coffee house in Georgetown.

**Jerry Parks**—Died 26 September 1993. Head of Clinton's gubernatorial security team in Little Rock, Arkansas, gunned down in his car at a deserted intersection outside Little Rock. Parks had been compiling a dossier on Clinton's illicit activities, which was stolen and never recovered.

**C. Victor Raiser II & (son) Montgomery Raiser**—Died 30 July 1992. Victor was National Finance Co-Chairman for the Clinton's election campaign. They died in a private plane crash; cause not determined.

**Barry Seal**—Died 1986. CIA pilot who flew drugs into Mena, Arkansas. Had compiled a "Boss Hogs" list. Machine-gunned at his home in Baton Rouge, Florida.

**Bill Shelton**—Died June 1994. Arkansas State Trooper and Kathy Ferguson's fiancé. Critical of the suicide ruling on her death, he was found dead at Ferguson's gravesite from a gunshot wound; also ruled a suicide.

**Paul Tulley**—Died 24 September 1992. Democratic National Committee Political Director, found dead in a hotel room in Little Rock, Arkansas, of unknown causes.

No autopsy allowed. Described by Clinton as a "dear friend and trusted adviser".

**Jon Parnell Walker**—Died 15 August 1993. Resolution Trust Corp. investigator who was looking into Whitewater/Clinton-duo ties. Mysteriously fell to his death from balcony of the Arlington, Virginia, apartment reportedly used by Vince Foster.

**Paul Wilcher**—Died 22 June 1993. Washington, DC, attorney investigating links between "October Surprise", the Waco massacre and drug/gun-running at Mena Airport, Arkansas. Found dead on toilet in his apartment; cause of death never determined. Delivered his 100-page report to Janet Reno a week or so before his death.

**Ed Willey**—Died 30 November 1993. Real-estate attorney and Clinton fundraiser, found dead in the woods of Virginia from gunshot wound to the head. Willey's death ruled a suicide, but no note or motive found. Died on the same day his wife Kathleen Willey claimed Bill Clinton groped her in the Oval Office at the White House.

**John Wilson**—Died 18 May 1993 from an apparent hanging suicide. A former Washington, DC, councilman, Wilson had ties to Whitewater and was preparing to start talking to the authorities about Clinton.

**Barbara Wise**—Died 29 November 1996. Commerce Department staffer who worked closely with Ron Brown and John Huang. Her bruised, naked body was found in her locked office at the Dept of Commerce; cause of death not announced. Curiously, Clinton made an unscheduled return to the White House from his Thanksgiving break at Camp David on the morning she died—ostensibly to retrieve a book of poetry.

*This is a partial list of Bill Clinton's bodyguards who have died mysteriously:*

- Major General William Robertson, Col. William Densberger, Col. Robert Kelly, Spec. Gary Rhodes—Died 23 Feb. 1993 in helicopter crash, Weisbaden, Germany.

- Major William S. Barkley, Jr, Captain Scott J. Reynolds, Sgt Brian Haney, Marine Sgt Tim Sabel—Died 19 May 1993 in helicopter crash in woods near Quantico, VA.

The above eight plus another eight bodyguards were associated with Clinton's visit to the aircraft carrier *Roosevelt* during Bosnian-Serbian peacekeeping operations.

- Steve Willis, Robert Williams, Conway LeBleu, Todd McKeegan—Died 19 April 1993 in the Waco massacre. All had similar bullet wounds to the left temple.

(Sources: Compiled from Internet websites, [www.devvy.com/death\\_list.html](http://www.devvy.com/death_list.html) and [www.sightings.com](http://www.sightings.com))